



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
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July 15, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Yolie Flores Aguilar
Executive Director
Children's Planning Council

**STATUS REPORT OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR TRACKING AND MEASURING THE
CORE SET OF SCHOOL READINESS INDICATORS RECOMMENDATIONS**

On July 15, 2003, your Board: 1) adopted the Framework for Tracking and Measuring the Core Set of School Readiness Indicators (Framework), as recommended by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council (CPC); 2) requested the New Directions Task Force Departments to identify current programs that affect the Countywide Goals, as set forth in the Framework, for inclusion in the 2004-05 Children and Families Budget Addendum, develop performance measures for those programs, and identify data sources related to the High Priority Research Agenda; 3) requested First 5 LA, in consultation with the CPC and other key stakeholders, to initiate work on the High Priority Research Agenda; 4) requested the CPC, in partnership with First 5 LA and other key stakeholders, to implement the plan for building Countywide consensus around the Framework; and 5) requested the CPC and the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board every six months, for the next 18 months, regarding progress in achieving these recommendations.

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This memorandum provides you with the second status report on the implementation of the Framework.

Please refer to Attachment A for a detailed report prepared by the CPC on the five recommendations included in the Framework for Tracking and Measuring the Core Set of School Readiness Indicators that was adopted by your Board.

If you have any questions or need additional information, your staff may contact Laura Valles, Children's Planning Council, at (213) 893-0481.

DEJ:YFA:LV
LS:KS:CP

Attachment

STATUS REPORT ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR TRACKING AND MEASURING THE CORE SET OF SCHOOL READINESS INDICATORS (FRAMEWORK)

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS: STATUS UPDATE

Recommendation 1: Adoption of Framework for Tracking and Measuring the Core Set of School Readiness Indicators, as recommended by the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council.

Lead: Children's Planning Council. Completed.

Recommendation 2: Requested the New Directions Task Force Departments to identify current programs that affect the Countywide Goals, as set forth in the Framework, for inclusion in the 2004-05 Children and Families Budget (C&FB) Addendum; develop performance measures for those programs; and identify data sources related to the High Priority Research Agenda.

Lead: New Directions Task Force

The Fiscal Year 2004-05 C&FB was issued in April 2004, and included data on 110 programs submitted by 22 participating County departments and commissions. As part of the five-year phased implementation plan of the CFB, departments were required to identify individual program budgets and program performance measures for 50 percent of their programs, and, as a priority, to identify measures for programs that contribute towards the Countywide School Readiness Goals.

As requested in the budget instructions, departments identified a total of 70 programs that contribute towards one or more of the Countywide School Readiness Indicators, and included program performance measures for these programs in keeping with CFB implementation requirements. An analysis of this information is provided by the Children's Planning Council in C&FB, Section 2: *Efforts to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families*. The program performance measures are included in Section 4: *Departmental Program Performance and Results Budget Detail*.

Identification of data sources pertaining to the High Priority Research Agenda is pending the completion of work by First 5 LA to finalize the Agenda.

Recommendation 3: Requested First 5 LA, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council and other key stakeholders, to initiate work on the High Priority Research Agenda.

Lead: First 5 LA

The research partnership established by First 5 LA and CPC, with the DHS LA County Health Survey has been working diligently to publish a "School Readiness Indicators" report that will present recent data on the indicators --- along with stories/vignettes that bring the numbers to life. PR/media-related activities are planned for the release of this report, which will be released in September.

Recommendation 4: Requested the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council, in partnership with First 5 LA and other key stakeholders, to implement the plan for building Countywide consensus around the Framework.

Lead: Children's Planning Council (CPC)
Key Partners: Service Planning Area (SPA) and American Indian Children's (AIC) Councils
First 5 LA Commission
City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth, and Their Families
Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)
Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)
Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care

Service Planning Area (SPA) and American Indian Children's (AIC) Councils

The system of SPA/AIC Councils, through its School Readiness Committee, developed a comprehensive and coordinated community engagement workplan that will impact the School Readiness Indicators related to schools and childcare programs. The School Readiness committee's goal for this year is to develop a public relations focus on school readiness/UPK through focus groups, surveys, and one-on-one community organizing activities in order to build a base of 3,000 parents and childcare providers who will be linked to parent-led advisory groups in each of the eight SPA's. The long-term goal for this committee is to increase awareness of school readiness/universal pre-school by an additional 8,000 parents by December 2006.

The system of SPA/AIC Councils also revised their council workplans for fiscal year 2004-2005. Among the school readiness indicators emphasized in these workplans are those related to health, families who have supportive networks, access to quality child care, and children free from abuse and neglect.

Finally, the Children's Planning Council, in partnership with UCLA's Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities is also in the process of developing a web-based school readiness workstation and community building toolkit which will provide technical assistance and capacity-building for individuals and organizations working on school readiness efforts throughout Los Angeles County.

First 5 LA Commission

Progress continues to be made on utilizing the Framework to evaluate their child care initiatives.

City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth, and Their Families

The Los Angeles City Commission for Children, Youth, and Their Families continues to move forward on developing its Child Care Policy based upon the Framework.

Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)

LACOE conducted the First Annual Transition Conference on June 19, 2004, offering various school readiness workshops to over 250 parents, teachers, and administrators.

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)

LAUSD continues to work with each of its early education programs and its Early Education Center Administrators who were provided with a comprehensive report on the school readiness indicators.

The Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable)

- 1) The Roundtable believes that high-quality child care services promote school readiness in young children and their families. As a result, the Roundtable is committed to ensuring that all families in Los Angeles County have geographic and financial access to such services. During this period, the Roundtable has compiled information on child development program quality rating systems used by other states, including:

- processes used to rate programs;
- program elements that were assessed in rating process;
- entities administering the rating systems;
- participation rates by child care programs in the rating systems; and
- incentives or technical assistance available to child care programs.

This information contributed toward the development of the Roundtable's framework for a five-star rating system of child development programs. The Roundtable has worked cooperatively with the First 5 LA Universal Preschool Task Team on Quality and Standards, contributing the framework for the Task Team's five-star rating system. As a result of this collaboration, it is likely that the proposed higher standards associated with universal preschool could extend to children of all ages enrolled in child development programs.

- 2) Unfortunately, as a result of the California State Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-04, the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) implemented a new and reduced monitoring schedule for child care programs. CCLD also implemented steep increases in child care licensing fees. The Roundtable views the reduction in monitoring as a threat to both the health and safety of young children in child care programs, and to efforts to improve the quality of child care services. These concerns were incorporated into the position paper on child care licensing that was forwarded to your Board in April 2004. As directed by the November 4, 2003 motion by Supervisor Knabe, the Roundtable continues to monitor the impact of the increased fees and reduced monitoring of child care programs.

- 3) Because thousands of income-eligible families never receive subsidized child care services, and families who do receive these services frequently lose them before they are financially able to bear the full cost of child care, the Roundtable has researched the cost of extending child care subsidies to families earning up to 150 percent of the State Median Income. The results of this research will be available following the release of the California State Budget for 2004-05.
- 4) The Roundtable has monitored legislation throughout this period and recommended that the County of Los Angeles take a “support” position on SB 1343, the Infant and Toddler Child Care Master Plan Legislation. Support for this legislation communicates the need for quality services for the youngest participants in child development programs.